



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

OCT - 5 2022

The Honorable Bill Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Johnson:

I am writing in response to your request submitted pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1130, to review an award for the potential upgrade to the Medal of Honor for then-Corporal (CPL) Fred B. McGee, U.S. Army.

I reviewed the proposal to posthumously award the Medal of Honor to then-CPL McGee for his valorous actions on June 16, 1952, during the Korean War. After giving the nomination careful consideration, I agree that then-CPL McGee's actions merit award of the Medal of Honor.

However, 10 U.S.C. § 7274 requires that the Medal of Honor be awarded, "within five years after the date of the act justifying the award." Before we can take further action with this nomination, Congress must waive this time limit. Once legislation is enacted authorizing the President of the United States to award, if he so chooses, the Medal of Honor to then-CPL McGee, I will provide my endorsement to the President. The final award authority for the Medal of Honor rests solely with the President. My favorable determination in no way presumes what the President's decision might be.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs. I am sending similar letters to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and Senator Rob Portman.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lap. Portman", is written below the word "Sincerely,".